

being bullied herself for standing up for friends. She recalled one of her middle school friends, who was bullied so badly that he would ride his broken bicycle to school in the depths of the New Hampshire winter rather than take the bus. Hannah helped get him a new bicycle, but she was also inspired to do something more to stop the bullying that impacted him and others in her school.

The summer before her 8th grade year, Hannah came up with the IGYB program that includes a wristband, a parent hand-out, and video that explains IGYB and how participating students are pledging to stand up against bullying and spread kindness in their schools. Now, Hannah travels across New Hampshire giving talks to school assemblies and recruiting “ambassadors,” both student and adults, in school communities to help spread the message of IGYB. She is currently working with New Hampshire Governor Chris Sununu and other New Hampshire officials to implement her program in all New Hampshire schools.

Hannah says that she wants to be a voice both for those who need one now and for those who needed one but are no longer here. She hopes that her IGYB movement will let students know that people support them and have their backs. For her dedication to making her community a better place and the work she has done to prevent bullying and spread kindness in New Hampshire schools, I am proud to recognize Hannah as our October Granite Stater of the Month.●

#### TRIBUTE TO GARRY J. AUGUSTINE

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I am proud to recognize in the RECORD, Disabled American Veterans, DAV, executive director Garry J. Augustine, who has a long record of service to our Nation's veterans.

Mr. Augustine has not only dedicated his life to serving veterans, he is a veteran himself. He served in the U.S. Army, enlisting after high school graduation in 1969. Mr. Augustine served as a member of the 198th Infantry Brigade in South Vietnam, where he was seriously injured by a land mine explosion. After spending 18 months at Walter Reed Army Medical Center recovering from his injuries, Mr. Augustine was medically discharged from the U.S. Army in 1972.

Mr. Augustine has been a member of DAV for 46 years, and he has worked for DAV for the past 30 years. His first job with DAV was in 1988 as a hospital service coordinator for the Department of Ohio at the Cleveland Wade Park U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA, Hospital. Mr. Augustine has held numerous positions working on behalf of veterans during his three decades with DAV. He has served as executive director since 2013.

Under Mr. Augustine's leadership, DAV has been a partner with Congress, including with the committee I have

the honor of chairing, the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, in accomplishing significant reforms for veterans. This includes overhauling VA's system of providing decisions to veterans on their disability claims appeals and improving VA's ability to provide community care. The John S. McCain III, Daniel K Akaka, and Samuel R. Johnson VA Maintaining Internal Systems and Strengthening Integrated Outside Networks (MISSION) Act of 2018, enacted in June 2018, strengthened healthcare for veterans and expanded VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers to include veterans of all eras. DAV's initiatives, led by Mr. Augustine, have raised awareness for important issues such as caregiver support, care and benefits specifically related to women veterans, and advance appropriations for VA accounts.

Today, I pay tribute to Mr. Augustine for his service to our country and his steadfast commitment to veterans throughout his career. Congratulations to Mr. Augustine on his retirement and a career in which he has left a lasting legacy of advocacy for veterans.●

● Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, today I wish to honor the service and career of veteran and dedicated advocate Garry Augustine.

As the executive director of the Disabled American Veterans, DAV, since 2010 and a 46-year life member, Garry has helped shaped the legislative landscape for disabled veterans and their families by advocating before Congress, the White House, and the VA. Back home, Garry has led DAV's efforts to make sure disabled veterans can access the healthcare and benefits they need and earned.

A native of Cleveland, OH, Garry enlisted in the U.S. Army in August 1969. As a member of the 198th Infantry Brigade in South Vietnam, he served on the Batangan Peninsula. During a combat patrol operation on April 9, 1970, he was severely wounded by a land mine explosion.

After 18 months and multiple surgeries at Walter Reed Medical Army Hospital, Garry returned home to Cleveland, where he continued physical rehabilitation and underwent additional surgeries at the Cleveland VA hospital. In December 1972, he was medically discharged from the U.S. Army.

Following his service, Garry went on to earn a bachelor's degree with honors from Ohio University in 1978. In 1983, he completed a master's degree in sociology from Cleveland State University, the same year he became a life member of DAV Chapter 42 in Mentor, OH.

In Mentor, he served in various positions, including chapter commander and adjutant, and on statewide committees, as well as director of service for the DAV Department of Ohio. In 1989, he was selected as one of the Outstanding Young Men of America.

Along the way, Garry met and married Kellie Lambing and raised two children, Chelsea and Kyle.

Garry began his tenure with DAV as a hospital service coordinator in 1988 at the Cleveland Wade Park VA Hospital. That same year, he joined DAV's professional staff as a national service officer apprentice. He remained at the Cleveland national service office where he was promoted to assistant supervisor in 1997 and supervisor in 2000.

He served as supervisor at the Cleveland DAV National Service Office until being appointed assistant national service director at DAV's Washington Headquarters in 2002. In January 2004, he was appointed deputy national service director and was named national service director in 2010.

As executive director of DAV, Garry has helped lead an organization that has always been at the forefront of advocating for veterans and securing the resources, healthcare, and benefits veterans have earned. Garry has been a fierce advocate for VA healthcare reform, expanding caregiver benefits, securing critical resources for veterans initiatives, modernizing the disability appeals system, and improving VA services and resources for women veterans.

As ranking member of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee, it has been a joy to work with Garry and DAV on important pieces of legislation like the Deborah Sampson Act, the Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act, the VA Accountability and Whistleblower Protection Act, the Rural Veterans Transportation Enhancement Act, and the VA MISSION Act.

These bipartisan bills, several of which were signed into law, serve as a testament to Garry's dedication and leadership on behalf of veterans. While future generations of veterans will be able to look at these bipartisan reforms as examples of Garry's dedication, they will also feel the reach of Garry's mission to serve veterans in their communities.

Under his leadership, DAV continues to be a cornerstone for communities across our Nation. At the local level, DAV helps injured and ill veterans get to and from their doctor appointments, transition back to civilian life through its mobile service offices, and navigate the VA healthcare and benefits systems.

It is my honor to recognize Garry's lifetime of service as a soldier, veteran, and leader of DAV. As Garry begins a new adventure into retirement, I have no doubt that he will continue to serve those in need. To Garry, on behalf of myself and a grateful nation, I extend my greatest appreciation to you for your enduring bravery, service, sacrifice, and advocacy.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JERRY GIOVANIELLO

● Mr. ISAKSON. Mr. President, today I am proud and honored to place in the RECORD well-deserved recognition and heartfelt congratulations to Jerry Giovaniello on his retirement from